

BLM

Adventures in the Past



Heritage Education



Indian Ruins by Scott Newman, age 5

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**



BLM heritage education

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is committed to excellence in education and supporting the President's America 2000 education goals through a major new program in heritage education. The new program is an element of BLM's **"Adventures in the Past"** program which seeks to promote appreciation of America's cultural heritage.

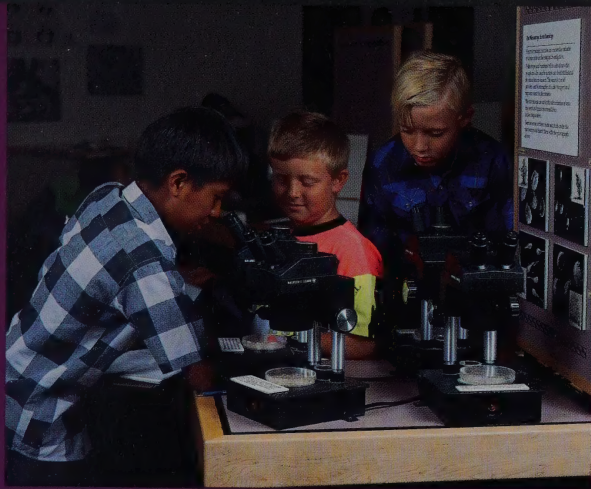
BLM is caretaker of an estimated five million historic and archaeological properties on almost 300 million acres of land. These properties provide a dramatic record of humanity's 12,000 year presence in the New World and unparalleled opportunities for teaching young people about America's cultural heritage.

By drawing on the inspiration and intellectual excitement inherent in the study of history and archaeology, BLM hopes to capture the attention of young people at an early age, sustain their interest through hands-on activities and involve them in increasingly more sophisticated learning experiences throughout higher levels of learning.



BLM's heritage education effort is an ambitious one that will require the cooperation of government, industry, the education community and the public. Now in its infancy, BLM's multi-faceted program, ultimately, will provide opportunities for students across the Nation in grades K-12. Educational experiences and/or teaching resources will be offered for the school setting as well as for "outdoor classrooms," museums and other informal learning environments.

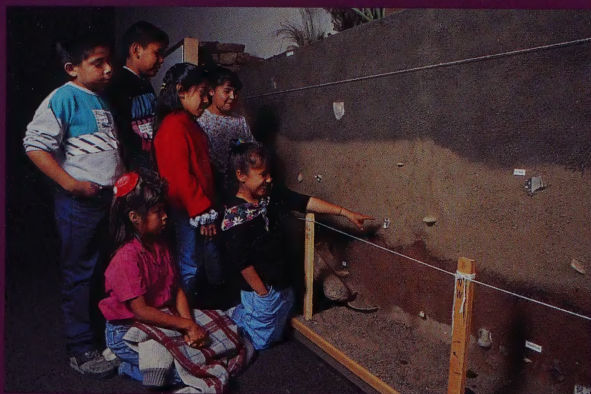




Fifth grade students looking through microscopes at seeds from plants used by prehistoric Anasazi Indians a thousand years ago.

We are committed to using Departmental resources to help develop the Administration's long-range plan for reforming, rejuvenating, and revitalizing our education system for the benefit of all Americans.

Secretary Manuel Lujan, Jr.



Third grade students examine artifacts embedded in the wall of a test trench. The profile simulates an archaeological excavation of an Anasazi Indian pithouse dwelling.



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Programs

BLM's strategy calls for the development of the programs below. Efforts in some areas have already begun.

Discovery Campaign -- mixed media campaign to expand children's awareness of America's historic and archaeological resources

Young Stewards Club -- club for young people to promote interest in history and archaeology and popularize stewardship ethics

Discovery Exhibit -- interactive traveling exhibit to encourage children to "discover" the excitement of history and archaeology

Hands-on History and Archaeology -- programs and resources to provide hands-on learning experiences in museums, schools, and the outdoors

Partnership Program -- cooperative efforts between the BLM and museums, universities, and private businesses in heritage education

Mobile Teacher Resource Center -- a traveling van providing teaching aids which use history and archaeology as magnets for learning

Magazine Articles for Teachers -- publications to expand teachers' awareness of the possibilities of heritage resources for teaching and learning

History Mysteries -- activity books for children tied to history and archaeology themes

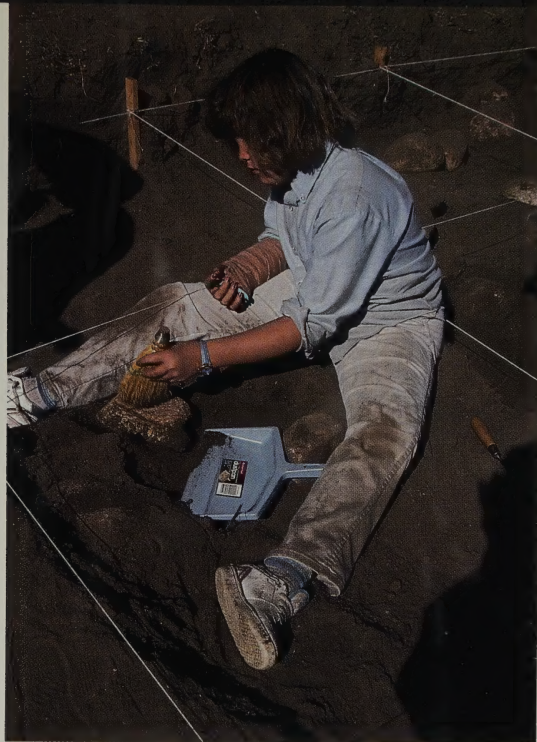
Educational TV -- programs for children promoting learning through a focus on history and archaeology subjects

Multi-media Teacher Resource Facility -- multimedia heritage education library and facility for developing customized teaching aids

Project Archaeology -- classroom activities in archaeology to enrich classroom teaching in all subjects

Student and Teacher Internships -- opportunities for teachers and students to work and learn side-by-side with professional archaeologists

College Grants Program -- grants for college students for work supporting BLM's heritage education program

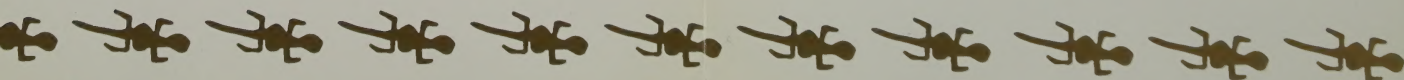


Arizona school girl participating in BLM outdoor classroom focusing on ancient peoples in Southeastern Arizona.

Goals

- Use the vast historic and archaeological resources under the custody of the Bureau of Land Management to support the education of America's children.
- Strengthen children's sense of personal responsibility for the stewardship of America's cultural heritage.

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Iron Horse by Joel Eads, age 8

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